



**Date:** April 12, 2012

**To:** Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager  
**Through:** Theodore L. Voorhees, Deputy City Manager  
**From:** Bruce Pagan, Fire Chief  
David Jacobs, Captain, EMS Coordinator  
**Subject:** Fire Department Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Foundation

### **Executive Summary**

This presentation is to inform the City Council of a proposal to establish an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) foundation in Durham with the purpose of raising money for first responder medical care in the community. This new EMS fund would be sponsored by the Medic One Foundation in Seattle, Washington, who will serve as fiscal agent, with the delivery of services managed by the Durham Fire Department. The Fire Department has been collaborating with the Medic One Foundation, a national leader in first responder cardiac care for almost a year. The result is a desire to enter into a joint venture where the Medic One Foundation would serve as a financial steward for a foundation here in Durham.

This venture would allow the department to improve the medical care to citizens in three main areas:

Public Education – Free CPR training and AED placement throughout the community

Departmental Training – Advance medical training for firefighters and paramedics

Up-to-date Medical equipment and supplies – Obtain needed items for training and patient care

The creation of this foundation would further strengthen the relationship with citizens by having city fire department employees spending time with them to teach CPR. This in turn would allow for time to address any other health care concerns that may be present and contribute to the overall well-being of the community. Working with the public on their possible future medical care would allow for an exchange of information that the department does not normally have.

### **Recommendation**

The Fire Department recommends that the City Council receive the staff presentation and provide comments.

### **Background**

For the past two years, the Fire Department has been looking for ways to improve the outcome of cardiac arrest patients. After a visit to the Seattle, Washington, area to attend a

school on improving resuscitation, the Medic One Foundation of Seattle offered fund raising assistance to departments across the country. The Durham Fire Department thus began working with the Medic One Foundation to study and review the possibility of establishing a foundation here in Durham. The purpose of this would be to help fund education in the community, provide advanced medical training for firefighters and paramedics, and to purchase state of the art medical equipment in order to improve cardiac arrest survivability for the citizens of Durham. The Fire Department understands that this is something that is not a normal city practice; however, we think that the potential gain of a foundation in Durham to raise money for the community is truly a worthwhile endeavor.

### **Issues and Analysis**

The question of competition with other charitable organizations within the community may arise. Nevertheless, the potential to build a national model program in Durham that will improve cardiac survivability rates is, in the Department's opinion, a solid reason to move forward with this effort.

To build community support, a board of community advisors will be developed to provide feedback and assist with corporate outreach.

### **Alternatives**

Increase the fire department's operational budget by \$365,000 per year for the sole purpose of improving cardiac arrest treatment and care.

### **Financial Impact**

No additional cost will be incurred by the city; however, there is the potential for a funding stream to be generated for the fire service to improve medical care in the community.

### **SDBE Summary**

This item does not require review by the Office of Equal Opportunity / Equity Assurance.

### **Attachments**

Attachment A: Medic One Foundation in Durham.